

Home Improvement Experts, Advanced Energy Leaders and Federal Tax Experts Host 'How to' Event on Purchasing and Installing Energy-Saving Products

6/9/2007 Deer Park, NY—On Saturday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) held a "Greening Your Home" workshop for Long Islanders wanting to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and lower utility costs. The meeting and workshop, which was held outside of the Deer Park Home Depot, featured home improvement experts, renewable energy leaders, financial experts and local elected officials. The event provided homeowners with information on purchasing and installing products that improve the energy efficiency of their homes and the various federal tax incentives that exist to promote their use. Over 15 vendors who sell energy efficient products and appliances displayed their products and services.

"Reducing our dependence on foreign oil is my top priority in Congress," said Congressman Israel. "I joined the Appropriations Committee to lead the fight to increase our investments in alternative energy and reduce the cost of power at home. That's why I'm proud to have added over \$637 million in funding for renewable energy and efficiency programs. These programs provide incentives for Americans to purchase and install advanced energy technologies, helping them to save money on their energy bills. I want to make sure that as many Long Islanders as possible take advantage of these federal programs."

"There are tax incentives from both the federal government and the State of New York for installing advanced energy equipment," said Jacob Goldman, a Tax Consultant for Energy Tax Savers, Inc. "These credits provide an incentive for individuals to go the extra mile to be efficient. They allow you to save money and energy."

Overall, \$1.8 billion for alternative energy programs was included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill which was passed last Wednesday by the House Appropriations Committee. This represents an increase of over \$637 million on advanced energy programs from the President's budget request.

Congressman Israel advocated a number of important programs including:

- \$245 million for weatherization assistance grant programs, an increase of over \$101 million above the President's request;
- \$15.8 million for the Clean Cities program, renamed the Vehicles Technologies Deployment (VTD) program, an increase of over \$6 million;
- \$28 million for the Building Energy Codes Program, an increase of \$25 million;
- \$27 million for the Federal Energy Management Program, an increase of over \$10 million.

The Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which passed the Appropriations Committee today, must now be voted on by the entire House and reviewed in the Senate.